

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for distributing one or more news stories to a reader, comprising:
 - a computer accessible to the reader, the computer having a display device viewable by the reader;
 - a web browser executing on the computer, the web browser having a graphical user interface;
 - a list of titles corresponding to the one or more news stories, the list appearing as a portion of a web page in the graphical user interface;
 - a selection device used by the reader to select one of the news stories to view;
 - a news story rendering application executing on the computer that uses the title of the news story selected by the reader to access a news story rendering file that instructs the web browser how to display data in the graphical user interface, and to access a news story data file that contains the data associated with the news story, wherein the news story is rendered so that it is viewable in the graphical user interface in accordance with the instructions in the news story rendering file and the data in the news story data file.
2. The system recited in claim 1, further comprising an authoring tool for generating the news story.
3. The system recited in claim 1, further comprising an XML file comprising a link to the news story rendering file.
4. The system recited in claim 3, wherein the XML file is an RSS file.

5. The system recited in claim 4, wherein the RSS file comprises a plurality of links to a plurality of news story rendering files, each news story rendering file associated with a news story data file that can be obtained from information about the news story rendering file.

6. The system recited in claim 4, further comprising a web-based authoring tool for allowing a contributor to generate a news story.

7. The system recited in claim 6, wherein the authoring tool comprises one or more formatting buttons.

8. A method for distributing one or more news stories to a reader, comprising the steps of:
displaying a list of titles to a reader in a web browser executing on a computer accessible to the prospective reader;

accepting a selection of one of the news stories for rendering to the reader;

identifying a file comprising rendering information for the selected news story, the rendering information including a link to a rendering file;

determining the location of a data file comprising news story data for the selected news story from the rendering information; and

rendering the news story to the reader in the web browser in accordance with the rendering file using the news story data.

9. The method recited in claim 8, wherein the step of determining the location of the data file comprises the step of determining the location of the data file using a file name of the

rendering file.

10. The method recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of creating a news story using an authoring tool.

11. The method recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of formatting text of the created news story.

12. The method recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of generating a rendering file in conformance with JSP view files.

13. The method recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of generating an XML file containing the rendering information.

14. The method recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of generating an RSS file containing the rendering information.

15. A system for distributing news and other information in an information data file, comprising:

a first computer having a first display on which the information data file is created;

a holding area into which the information is stored prior to being approved for roll out;

a staging area into which the information data file is stored after being approved for roll out;

a news feed area into which the information data file is stored after roll out;

a second computer having a second display that executes a web browser, the web browser having a link to a data file, the link data file comprising a link to a view file, the view file comprising rendering instructions for rendering the information data file on the second display; and

an application executing on the second computer, the second application comprising means for determining a location of the information data file from the link data file and means for rendering the information data file on the second display in accordance with the rendering instructions.

16. The system recited in claim 15, further comprising an authoring tool for creating the information data file.

17. The system recited in claim 16, wherein the authoring tool comprises text formatting.

18. The system recited in claim 16, wherein the authoring tool comprises means to create a link from entered text.

19. The system recited in claim 15, further comprising means for determining the location of the information data file using a name and a location of the view file.

20. The system recited in claim 15, wherein the link data file complies with RSS.

21. The system recited in claim 15, wherein the link data file complies with XML.

22. A method for distributing news and other information in an information data file, comprising the steps of:

- creating the information data file;

- storing the information data file in a holding area;

- obtaining approval for the information data file;

- transferring the information data file to a staging area;

- rolling out the information data file to a news feed area, along with a view file

comprising rendering instructions;

- storing a link to the view file in a link data file;

- determining a location of the information data file from information contained in the link data file; and

- rendering the information data file on a computer display according to the rendering instructions.

23. The method recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of editing the information data file prior to approval.

24. The method recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of formatting at least a portion of text contained in the information data file.

25. The method recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of determining the location of the information data file using the link of the view file.

26. The method recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of rolling the information data file out over a computer network.

27. The method recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of making the view file XML-compliant.

28. The method recited in claim 27, further comprising the step of making the view file RSS-compliant.

29. A system for distributing information, comprising:

- means for creating an information data file comprising the information;
- means for storing the information data file in a holding area prior to approval;
- means for transferring the information data file to a staging area prior to roll out;
- means for rolling out the information data file;
- means for storing the information data file in a news feed area after approval;
- means for creating a view file comprising rendering data for rendering the information data file;
- means for creating a link data file comprising a link to the view file;
- means for determining a location of the information data file from information contained in the link data file; and

means for rendering the information data file on a computer display in accordance with the rendering instructions.

30. The system recited in claim 29, further comprising means for editing the information data file.

31. The system recited in claim 29, further comprising means for formatting text in the information data file.

32. The system recited in claim 29, further comprising means for formatting text in the information data file.

33. The system recited in claim 29, further comprising means for determining the location of the information data file using the link of the view file.

34. The system recited in claim 29, further comprising means for extracting and rendering a predetermined number of sentences from the information data file.

35. A system for creating and distributing news stories, comprising:

a vendor web site having a vendor computer for creating and editing a news story and storing a news story data file comprising text of the news story;

a subscriber web site having a subscriber computer to which the news story data file is transferred,

a reader computer on which a web browser is executing for displaying a title of the news story to a reader and allowing the reader to select the news story and comprising means for rendering the news story to the reader, the reader computer further comprising an application for determining a location of the news story data file from information in a link data file, accessing the news story data file and rendering the news story data file to a reader.

36. The system recited in claim 31, further comprising an authoring tool for creating the news story data file.

37. The system recited in claim 36, further comprising text formatting buttons for formatting at least a portion of text of the news story data file.

38. The system recited in claim 35, wherein the link data file is XML-compliant.

39. The system recited in claim 38, wherein the link data file is RSS-compliant.

40. The system recited in claim 35, wherein the application extracts and renders a predetermined number of sentences of the news story data file.